

Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life: Considerations for the COVID-19 Response

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Some U.S. stockpiles include N95 filtering facepiece respirators (N95s) that have exceeded their manufacturer-designated shelf life. U.S. Government decision makers are considering whether these products should be released for use during the COVID-19 response. In times of respiratory protective device shortage, such as during the COVID-19 response, supplies must be managed so that protection against exposure is adequate.

Based on preliminary information gained in a study evaluating stockpiled N95s from 10 geographically dispersed facilities with a range of storage conditions by the CDC NIOSH. All N95 units evaluated in this study were manufactured between 2003 and 2013. Many have exceeded their manufacturer-designated shelf life. Testing was done in accordance with NIOSH performance standards for filtration efficiency and inhalation/exhalation resistance. Additional work to assess N95 fit testing is also included in the study, although a fit assessment is not a requirement for NIOSH approval of N95s. many models have continued to perform in accordance with NIOSH performance standards.

Accordingly, CDC/NIOSH believes the following products, despite being past their manufacturer-designated shelf life, should provide the expected level of protection to the user if the stockpile conditions have generally been in accordance with the manufacturer-recommended storage conditions and an OSHA-compliant respiratory protection program is used by employers. In alphabetical order, these models are:

- 3M 1860
- 3M 1870
- 3M 8210
- 3M 9010
- 3M 8000
- Gerson 1730
- Medline/Alpha Protech NON27501
- Moldex 1512
- Moldex 2201

Please refer to this link for Preliminary findings- NIOSH performance standards & detailed information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/release-stockpiled-N95.html>

EM Resource is a Juvare portal ISDH is using to track the hospitals with emergency department PPE levels for situational awareness and determine next steps.